REMARKS

Reconsideration of the pending application is respectfully requested.

I.   Status of the Claims

Claims 1 and 2 are currently amended. No new matter has been added.

Claims 1-4 are pending in this application.

II.   Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1-4 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as anticipated by U.S. Patent Application No. 2002/0028710 to Ishihara et al. ("Ishihara"). Applicants respectfully traverse.

Amended claim 1 recites that a game system comprises:

"a character information storage device…

an attack content information storage device…

the character identification information is stored in the **character card** corresponding to the character identification information, and

the attack content identification information is stored in the **attack content card** corresponding to the attack content identification information."

Thus, two types of cards are prepared. One is the character card having the character identification information and another is the attack content card having the attack content identification information. As an example, when the player makes a character CA use the attack content AA, the character CA and the attack content AA are specified by using the character card

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CA and the attack content card AA. Processing is executed based on the combination of the specified character CA and the specified attack content AA. Therefore, a player can play the game by combining one of the attack content cards and one of the character cards during the game.

The character identification information is independent of the attack content identification information. Thus, multiple characters can use the same attack content, without each character card storing each individual attack content.

In contrast, while Ishihara discloses a game system in which cards are used, each card has the ability data about a character (physical strength, power etc.) including w eapons or magic (hereinafter "weapon") to be used by the character, all stored on the same card (*See*, Ishihara, paragraphs [0028] and [0039]).

The ability of a character (not disclosed, but typically physical strength, stamina, etc.) can be enhanced by the weapon (*See*, Ishihara, paragraph [0039]). Thus, as an example, the ability of the character can be similar to the "character identification information" of the present invention and the weapon can corresponds to the "attack control information" of the present invention. However, Ishihara fails to disclose and teach data corresponding to the attack content information which is independent of any characters such as the degree of difficulty of the attack content of the attack.

In Ishihara, all of information about a character including the weapon are stored in the character card (game card 30) for the character (*See*, Ishihara, paragraph [0028]). There is no data independent of any characters in Ishihara. Ishihara fails to disclose and suggest the information existing independently of the character. Therefore, when a number of characters use the weapon WA, it is necessary that the information regarding the weapon WA is prepared for each character to be stored in the card for each character.

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Nowhere in Ishihara is there a teaching or suggestion that the character abilities and their attacks should be divided between separate cards and that the game should progress by processing the combination of a character card and an attack content card. Ishihara solely teaches that when the weapon is used during the game, the card for the character is always used.

Thus, Ishihara does not teach or suggest all of the elements of the present invention. Claims 2-4 depend from claim 1 and are allowable based at least on the arguments above. Applicants respectfully request that the rejections be withdrawn.

CONCLUSION

In view of the above amendments and remarks, Applicants believe the pending application and all pending claims are in condition for allowance, and earnestly solicit same.

If the Examiner feels that any remaining issues can be resolved by a Supplemental or an Examiner's Amendment, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number indicated below.

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Respectfully submitted,

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